

State of Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Agriculture Fact Sheet Blueberries 2014



- Mississippi ranks #9 in the United States in blueberry production.
 - \$10 million value of production in 2014.
 - 2,100 acres harvested with 4,070 pounds per acre average yield in 2014.
 - Approximately 50% of Mississippi blueberries are sold wholesale through marketing cooperatives. The remaining blueberries are sold on a pick-your-own basis or sold independently through farmers markets, small stores, etc.
 - The majority of blueberry acreage is planted in the Southern half of the state.
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- Blueberries grow best in a light, sandy loam, in a sunny site with well drained, but moist, soil that is high in humus.
 - Blueberries are low in calories. One half cup contains 42 calories.
 - Fresh Mississippi blueberries are available in the marketplace from May through September with June and July being the peak harvest season.
 - Don't wash blueberries until they are ready eat. The rinse softens blueberries, which can quicken spoiling, according to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.
 - Blueberries rank above all the berries as a source of food energy and are an excellent source of antioxidants, carotenoids, fiber, magnesium, iron, folate, potassium, and Vitamin A, C & E.
 - Blueberries will keep for two weeks if refrigerated and two years frozen.
 - Canned blueberries are available in syrup packs, water packs, and in pie filling mixes.
 - Blueberries are related to huckleberries but are more sophisticated, have smaller seed, are larger in size and are sweeter.

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA



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